MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

23 SEPTEMBER 1982

Israel

Knesset Session -- The Knesset rejected by 48 to 42 the proposal to set up a national inquiry commission to investigate the circumstances surrounding the Beirut massacre and also rejected by 47 to 40 the Alignment's demand for a debate on the results of the IDF's entry into west Beirut, according to Jerusalem radio reports. Despite Yitzhaq Berman's support for the inquiry commission and his resignation as energy minister, the government weathered the crisis by satisfying National Religious Party and TAMI members of the coalition with a promise that it will decide on a way to examine the Beirut massacre within 2 to 3 weeks, the radio said.

In their speeches to the Knesset, which were broadcast live by Jerusalem radio, Prime Minister Menahem Begin and Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon said the government and IDF bear no blame for the massacre while Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres called on the government to resign. Sharon confirmed that the IDF authorized the Phalangists to enter the Shatila refugee camp to search and purge it of "terrorists," but he added that IDF officers had stressed to the Phalangists that the civilian population should not be harmed, especially not women, children and the elderly. The moment doubts arose about what was happening in the camps, the IDF took measures to end Phalange operations in Shatila, Sharon claimed. The IDF prevented them reinforcing their units in the camps on 17 September and the Phalangists left the refugee camps early the next morning. He asserted that when the IDF chief of staff met with Phalangist commanders on the afternoon of 17 September, the Israeli side was still ignorant of the events inside Shatila. After the massacre became known, the Israelis attempted to question the Phalange commanders but they have refused to talk and to admit responsibility. Since the Phalangists had appeared like a regular army and had promised to fight only against "terrorists," he said, the Israelis never imagined that the Phalangists would "do the worst."

Criticizing the opposition, Sharon claimed that its attempt to topple the government over the Beirut massacre is "pouring oil on the fire of anti-Semitism and is fostering a blood libel." Linking "putschists" in Israel with elements in the U.S. administration who are trying to impose the Reagan plan on Israel or to bring down the Begin government, Sharon warned that "this is Jerusalem, not Saigon."

Milson Resignation; Protests -- Prof Menahem Milson resigned his post as head of the civilian administration in Judaea and Samaria, IDF radio reported. Although the radio said sources associated with the defense minister attributed Milson's resignation to policy differences between Milson and Sharon over the civilian administration, civilian administration sources cited by Jerusalem radio disclosed that Milson resigned because of the government's decision not to establish a judicial inquiry into the Beirut massacre.

Meanwhile, 49 inhabitants of Nazareth and 38 policemen were injured in clashes that erupted when the authorities dispersed protests against the massacre, Jerusalem radio reported. Peace Now and MAPAM activists demonstrated against the government in and outside the Knesset, according to the radio.

Lebanon

Security Situation -- The Lebanese Army extended its deployment in new areas of west Beirut after the continuing IDF withdrawal, Beirut radio reported. According to Jerusalem radio, the IDF spokesman announced that four IDF soldiers were wounded in west Beirut after a bazooka attack on a roadblock position. In the eastern sector of Lebanon, IDF radio claimed that Syrians and "terrorists" violated the cease-fire and caused the IDF to return the fire.

Support for Al-Jumayyil -- Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad sent a cable, carried by Damascus television, congratulating Amin al-Jumayyil on his election as Lebanese president. The message said Syria will always support Lebanon in opposing the Israeli invasion and expressed support for Lebanese national sovereignty. PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat stated that he also supported the election of Al-Jumayyil, SUNA reported. The Islamic Council stressed that Al-Jumayyil's election is a sign of the need for strong national unity, Beirut radio said.

Syrian Warning on Massacre -- Speaking at an ambassador's reception reported by Damascus radio, Syrian President al-Asad warned that Israel will be punished for the massacre of Palestinians in Beirut. Al-Asad alleged that Israel is completely responsible for the crimes and that no Lebanese faction or other group was involved.

PLO

"Informed sources" cited by Monte Carlo radio revealed that the visit by PLO Chairman 'Arafat to Saudi Arabia resulted in a Saudi-Palestinian agreement to exert intensive pressure on UN Security Council members to achieve Palestinian aims. The sources claim the Saudis will use all their capabilities to influence the United States to force Israel to leave Beirut and Lebanon. According to the radio, Palestinian sources stressed that the PLO will retaliate for the Beirut massacre, possibly with a suicide squad aimed against Israeli leaders.

Meanwhile, 'Arafat told the press on his arrival in Sudan that he supported Egypt's decision to withdraw its ambassador from Israel, SUNA reported. Later, 'Arafat met with Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri to discuss the Beirut massacre, Fes summit conference results and possible Arab action against Israel, SUNA said.

Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf criticized Arabs for holding the Fes summit meeting after the Palestinian fighters had already left Beirut. In an interview with a Kuwaiti weekly reported by KUNA, he asserted that the Fes summit should have drawn up a war plan as well as a peace plan in case the peace plan failed, adding that he has some objections to the peace plan. Khalaf expressed astonishment that some PLO leaders sent condolences on the death of Lebanese President-elect Bashir al-Jumayyil, and criticized these leaders for "flexibility."

Egypt

President Husni Mubarak held Israel responsible for the massacre of Palestinians in Beirut. In a speech to the NDP Congress on 22 September, carried by Cairo radio, he asserted that the crimes were committed under Israeli occupation and within sight of its forces, which also supplied the arms and equipment used in the killing. Mubarak said events have confirmed that Egypt was correct in saying it was wrong for the PLO to evacuate Beirut and be dispersed without a comprehensive Middle East solution. He pointed out that Egypt took action after the massacre by condemning it and withdrawing its ambassador from Israel.

Iran-Iraq War

Citing IRNA, Tehran radio reported that an Iraqi MiG-25 attempted to attack residential areas in Tehran but was forced away by the Iranian Air Force.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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GOVERNMENT CONSIDERING SEALING PAKISTAN BORDER

PM221349 Stockholm SVENSKA DAGBLADET in Swedish 18 Sep 82 p 5

[Interview with PDPA Politburo member Anahita Ratebzad in Kabul -- date not given]

[Text] Kabul -- The Soviet-backed Afghan Government has worked out a detailed plan for an attempt to seal its more than 2,000-km-long border with Pakistan on the East German model.

The government is planning to seal off long border stretches, which are of vital importance in the current war, with barbed wire fences, further mining and armed observation towers. This would strangle the "counterrevolutionaries'" freedom of movement and their supplies of arms coming into Afghanistan. Unofficial sources also say that Kabul has sent several delegations to East Germany to study the country's special "security system" along its border with West Germany.

"Even though it could be very expensive, we could be forced to carry out these plans," Politburo member Anahita Ratebzad said in an interview with SVENSKA DAGBLADET. Mrs Ratebzad, one of Afghan President Babrak Karmal's closest confidantes and the only woman with a top government post, spoke indignantly of the revolutionary government's right to defend itself against imperialism and attacks from, it is claimed, 80 different training camps for Muslim rebels along the Pakistani border. The Afghan-Pakistani border, which is over 2,100-km long, snakes its way through countless mountains over which no government in either country has ever had full control. Tribal groups on both sides have always moved unhindered back and forth across the border, and the same is true of the Afghan guerrillas who have succeeded in getting into Afghanistan without being stopped by military patrols.

"If we cannot reach a political solution with Pakistan through negotiation soon, there will be no other course for us than to close the border," Anahita Ratebzad said. "But of course we hope that we will not need to resort to this somewhat desperate solution and that Pakistan will instead sit down at the negotiating table in earnest."

It should now be clear to the rest of the world, Mrs Ratebzad said, that the "counter-revolutionaries" are unable to organize themselves. They are, she said, far too busy with internal conflicts and violence -- something to which they have increasingly been subjecting the civilian population.

"The major part of the enemy has been eliminated," she claimed. "Of course, they could continue to shoot and terrorize in small groups, or rob, butcher and murder. They have already lost the battle. And there is one thing they should know: Even if it turns out that only one of us survives, the revolution in Afghanistan will go on."

Anahita Ratebzad, who became Afghanistan's first woman doctor in the fifties, went as far as to say that the major part of the Russian troops will have left Afghanistan in the course of 3 to 5 years. However, she reserved the right to retain a smaller limited contingent of Russian troops in the country in the future -- primarily for security reasons.

It takes time, Anahita said, to win over the population to the side of the revolution. So many are illiterate, suspicious and neglected. "But we," the high-level Afghan politician said, "have found a way of winning their souls." The first group of pilgrims -- 600 people -- have recently been transported on an Afghan state jet to Mecca. A large number of new mosques have been built in the country and the mullahs' monthly wages are paid for from state funds.

The statements about an "Afghan Berlin wall" on the border with Pakistan were confirmed in another interview with party secretary Mahmud Barialay, brother of President Babrak Karmal.

"It is one of our ideas," he said. "You could perhaps say that this is a reserve solution in case the indirect UN negotiations which began in Geneva this summer between Kabul and Islamabad do not lead to new progress."

Politburo member Barialay, who is also responsible for the Afghan communist party's foreign relations, takes an optimistic view of the chances of reaching a political solution satisfactory to Afghanistan in the next year. The UN mediator appointed to deal with the Afghanistan question, Diego Cordovez, will engage in shuttle diplomacy between Kabul and Islamabad and also Tehran before the UN assembly meeting in New York in November. Even Moscow, which is represented in Afghanistan by the new chief adviser, Gavrilov, considers that "a step has been taken in the right direction" through the mediation attempts which are now taking place behind closed doors.

At the end of last year, when SVENSKA DAGBLADET's special correspondent was also in Kabul, Mahmud Barialay caused major international headlines by declaring that the Afghan Government was considering asking the Soviet Union to send further troop reinforcements to Afghanistan. Today he says:

"At present we are not contemplating asking Moscow to send in more troops. In the last few months we have succeeded in stabilizing the situation and in the last few weeks alone the 'bandit hordes' have suffered defeats in the Paghman mountains, the Lowgar and Panjsher Valleys, the three pockets of final resistance in the country."

Barialay said that it is U.S., Pakistani and Iranian policy which determines how long a "limited Soviet troop contingent" will have to stay in Afghanistan.

"If the other side is prepared to negotiate and stops interfering in Afghanistan's internal affairs by giving solid international guarantees, all Soviet troops will leave Afghanistan. I repeat: all."

He added, however, that such a troop withdrawal will not affect Afghanistan's friendly relationship with the Soviet Union.

"We will keep the Russian advisers in the country, as did previous Afghan governments."

During the 2 weeks when SVENSKA DAGBLADET was visiting Afghanistan from the end of August to the middle of September the capital or at least its central sectors made a relatively calm impression, although there were explosions, shots and artillery fire during the night and occasionally during the day. There was nothing to indicate that the Babrak Karmal regime is not firmly in the saddle. However, it seems as if the Muslim rebels have become more daring and more selective in their sporadic attacks and, for example, two Soviet garrisons in the capital were attacked during August. The Soviet troops are keeping a lower profile than ever. The military machine -- at least to outward appearances -- is kept going mainly by Afghan Government troops. Unlike last year, the revolutionary regime's various ministers are now making trips outside the capital and are even visiting villages, although they do have armed escort.

So-called civilian self-defense groups among the civilian population against the rebels' often ruthless demands for money, shelter and food are said to have been formed throughout the country. Large sections of tribal groups have obviously been bought by the government, which pays reasonable monthly wages, gives additional money for food and provides free arms and ammunition. A general view -- also among Westerners stationed in Kabul -- is that criminal behavior by guerrilla groups has increased considerably in recent months. Attacks, violence and robberies are everyday occurrences.

As the first Western journalists since the Soviet invasion at the end of 1979 we were granted the Kabul government's permission to visit the city of Herat near the Iranian border. Herat has long been thought to be a dangerous, troubled place, one of the most important bases of the Muslim guerrillas. During the day things were fairly calm in Herat, but early in the evenings wild uncontrolled bouts of firing broke out. Heavy-artillery fire went on throughout the night.

SUPERPOWER RIVALRY IN INDIAN OCEAN VIEWED

BK211530 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 15-17 Sep 82 p 6

[Article by M.V. Pradhan: "Indian Ocean and the Superpowers"]

[Text] Politics is the fruit of history and history is the root of politics. This is true of international politics as much as of internal politics. In order, therefore, to comprehend the present superpower rivalry in the Indian Ocean region, it would be essential to trace the development of this conflict at least over a span of two decades. 1960 is the crucial year to the understanding of this issue which involves an impending threat to the peaceful existence of hundreds of millions of people of the littoral and hinterland states.

Generally in discussions on the subject, the blame for the escalation of tension in the Indian Ocean region is placed at the door of one of the superpowers. But as Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in her characteristically discreet manner rightly pointed out "what is happening now is that one power increases its presence and others feel that they have to go one more step and this is where the danger lies."

Shift in Emphasis

So it would be fair to understand the actions and strategies of both the superpowers as both are making their presence felt and taking steps to build up their naval and nuclear strike capacity in the region. The Soviet Union, though a late-comer here, is also strengthening its presence with the avowed objective of acting as a deterrent to the U.S. build-up, but this could also serve other purposes. It is, therefore, appropriate to bring out the relevant issues of the altered capabilities of the superpowers. The Soviet naval policy has been reoriented since the early sixties basically as a response to the programme announced by President Kennedy in January 1960, whereby the UN shifted the emphasis of its military policy from land-based to sea-based strategic nuclear strike system.

In pursuit of its objective of deterrence, the Soviet Union aimed at developing matching sea-based strategic strike capability. Taking into account U.S. press reports that the American Navy was developing two new classes of submarines, one very fast and the other very silent, the Soviet strategists decided that they should pay greater attention to the security of their SSBN force and evolved the concept of deploying the submarines in the defended ocean bastions in the Greenland and Barents Seas and in the Sea of Okhotsk. The Soviet naval experts were also influenced by the increasing possibility of war with China and felt that they must develop their supply line to the Far Eastern front by sea, in case the trans-Siberian railway was disrupted. They calculated the possibilities of joint naval action by Chinese submarines and the U.S. forces as well as by regional navies.

Soviet Strategy

Thanks in the main to the series of articles in "MORSKOJ SHORNIK" [as published], which brought to fame the new naval strategy of Admiral Gorshkov, it was decided to give to the new battle cruiser class the capability for long range at high speed by appropriate propulsion plants earmarked for the SSBN programme. The book by Admiral Gorshkov. "Sea-power of the state" (1976) revolutionised Soviet thinking on naval strategy. It led to the new surface ship programme involving considerable increase in the number of ocean-going warships to be delivered each year and in the size of various types.

The nineties will usher in a new era of Soviet naval power. There would be four main sizes of ships, with the type-designator indicating a general role: A battle cruiser size, a cruiser size of about 4,000 [tons]. By 1995, allowing a 25-year life cycle, it is estimated that there would be about 15 cruiser size ships, 65 destroyer size and 55 frigate size ships.

There would also be 5 battle cruisers command ships and perhaps 7 or 8 air-capable ships. Every three years, the Soviet Navy will acquire a powerful new battle group comprising a heavily armed battle cruiser, 3 cruisers and about 10 large destroyers.

SSBN production is reported to be running at three a year and as new SSBN join the fleet, the Yankees are being converted to attack-submarines. By 1987 the force could stand at some 60 submarines carrying 950-1,050 missiles. By 1992, the Soviets are expected to possess 1,200 missiles carried by 60-75 SSBN. Besides, seven attack units would join the fleet each year. A very large submarine of perhaps 16,000 tons surface displacement has been fitted at Sverodvinsk.

The Soviets are out to challenge the Western technological lead in the submarine field. The Soviets are well advanced in the technical deployment of ballistic missiles in the U.S. offshore-based systems. They have also done considerable research in nonacoustic and space-based detection system.

In assessing the overall implication of the superpower rivalry in the Indian Ocean region, the littoral states of the Third World must be aware of the combined effects of the Soviet naval programme. The navy's political standing has increased, resulting in a more assertive Soviet policy and increasing use of Soviet military presence in support of overseas objectives.

Soviet naval power had arrived in the Gulf region as early as in 1968 shortly after Britain announced its plans to reduce its military commitments east of Suez and the vacation of its Aden base in November 1967. Some of the flag-showing visits may have been the Soviet response to the visits by task forces of the U.S. Seventh Fleet. It is reported that Iraq has developed a new port at Umm Qasr with Soviet assistance. The port facilities there are beyond the requirements of Iraq's own navy. The Soviet Union is asserting its naval presence as a symbol of its global power and political influence to support friendly regimes and counter U.S. and Chinese moves in the area. The moving away of Iran from the Western camp has altered fundamentally the intra-regional balance of forces in the area. Western bloc's hope that Iran and Saudi Arabia would jointly maintain the conservative character of the Gulf regimes and would subserve Western economic and strategic interests in the region have been shattered. The Soviet Union has also beefed up its capability in the Gulf region as it maintains that the Gulf region lies in Soviet backyard and reinforcement can be swiftly airlifted from nearby bases by Antonov heavy freighters.

Soviet Warships

The Soviet Navy stepped up the deployment of its warships in the region in the first half of 1979. The aircraft carrier Minsk, accompanied by a missile cruiser, a 13,000 ton amphibious ship and a tanker arrived in the Indian Ocean in 1979 via the Cape of Good Hope. It sailed out the Pacific in mid-June. Further, five naval vessels led by guided missile cruiser Petropavlovsk arrived in the region in January 1980. A Soviet submarine support ship accompanied by a number of submarines arrives in February.

The Soviet ships docked in Colombo in mid-February. The 13,000-ton Ivan Rogov, the largest troop landing ship of the Soviet Navy, carrying 400 naval infantry men (marines), escorted by a destroyer, is reported to have arrived in Aden in February. The 40,000-ton supply ship Berezine, a floating warehouse, arrived in March 1980. The strength of the Soviets was estimated between 15 to 29 ships, out of which 10 or 11 were combatants.

The Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, in the wake of its naval build-up is considered a threat to American supremacy by the United States, as also a danger to "free" regimes.

An imminent theatre of war cannot become a zone of peace all of a sudden, whatever may be the hopes and aspirations of the free peoples of the littoral and hinterland states.

U.S. Armada

The United States has all along been making vigorous efforts to build up its military presence in the Indian Ocean region. The U.S. Navy had been sent to secure naval bases in the Indian Ocean islands as early as 1948. It based its Middle East force in Bahrain as a guest of the British Navy since 1948. It comprised two destroyers and a command ship, a converted sea plane tender Valcour. The command and communication ship La Salle (13,900 tons) replaced the aging Valcour in July 1974. The United States signed agreement with Bahrain in 1971 to use the former British naval base for its Middle East fleet. It was explained that the base was needed to manifest U.S. interest in the area. The tiny permanent three-ship task force provided a constant show of the U.S. flag in the Arabian Sea and the Western half of the Indian Ocean.

Bahrain treated the U.S. base as protection against the Soviet Union which was moving into the region. Some analysts had thought the U.S. agreement with Bahrain was a sequel to the Pakistani debacle in its war against India in December 1971 and the threat of emerging Soviet fleet in the Indian Ocean.

The agreement between the United States and Bahrain was kept secret because Bahrain was sensitive to Arab reaction against leasing the only base in the Gulf. In 1973, Bahrain unilaterally asked the United States to withdraw the base. There was a change in Bahrain's attitude to foreign bases in the heart of the oil-rich region as there was pressure from Afro-Asian nations to eliminate foreign bases and make the Indian Ocean a zone of peace. The United States pulled out from Bahrain in June 1977, but in November 1979 Bahrain provided harbor facilities to United States warships.

The island of Masirah belonging to Oman was also secured by the United States. It is reported that Oman had agreed to an American request for the combined use of Masirah airport to refuel its Indian Ocean fighters based on Diego Garcia.

Oman's cooperation has enabled the United States to sustain its permanent naval presence in the region. This has paved the way to the stationing of Gulf strike force of the U.S. multi-service Rapid Deployment Force. The United States was also building up its military presence mainly in the ports of Matra, Salalah and the island of Masirah.

The U.S. Somali [as published] port of Berbera is situated in the Gulf of Aden -- close to the island of Socotra, and the U.S. Defense Department is reported to have earmarked 400 million dollars to modernize its runway on Diego Garcia to cope with B-52 strategic bombers with nuclear weapons.

The United States and its allies are building new airfields, barracks, radar stations from the Horn of Africa to the Cape of Good Hope, from Gibraltar to Suez and Gulf of Aden. Naval squadrons of the U.S. and its allies are sailing in the coastal waters from Alexandria, Berbera, Simonstown, Diego Garcia.

The Pentagon has already gone ahead with its plan of setting up an independent command of U.S. Rapid Deployment Force possible with its headquarters and some combat troops in the Gulf region. The force would continue to have a potential for worldwide deployment but its major focus would remain on South West Asia. The U.S. has landed three ships from the Seventh Fleet in the Indian Ocean region.

From this account of the increasing naval build-up of the two superpowers in the Indian Ocean, it is clear that the ocean is becoming a flash-point of tension. Some have gone to the extent of accusing the U.S. of the political motive of dominating over the littoral and hinterland states with the object of security the rich mineral wealth of these states.

Dangerous Rivalry

In the Rajya Sabha debate on June 9, 1980, the prime minister stated that the countries of the Indian Ocean region were having a raw deal. The big powers wanted to play their rivalry away from their own shores. The destablising events and competitive build-up of naval and nuclear strength have brought dangers to India's shores, changing fundamentally the security environment of the subcontinent. Indian Ocean has ceased to be a zone of peace but it has become an arena of superpower confrontation.

There are some powerful lobbyists who have been passing resolutions on making the Indian Ocean a zone of peace. If their conscience had been stirred by the imminent danger to the millions of human beings living in the littoral states, there would be no objection to supporting them as apostles of peace. But their target is only the United States and its armada. They only point the accusing finger at the bases in Diego Garcia, in Oman, Bahrain, Somalia, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, etc. They draw attention to the attempt of the United States to threaten independent peoples in the islands of the Indian Ocean and charge it with violating the United Nations resolution on the Indian Ocean, but they fail to understand that the Indian Ocean zone of peace movement should not support the substitution of one superpower by another superpower. We have already noted reorientation in the naval strategy adopted by the Soviet Union, and the efforts the Soviet Union has been making to build up its naval presence in the Indian Ocean.

Real apostles of peace should do well to bear in mind the following facts and suggestions. They must first realise that militarily the nations of Indian Ocean region do not possess strong navies. On the contrary they only have token forces. Therefore, they are at the mercy of the big powers with strong navies inclined to interfere in the international affairs of these states.

Real Solution

The object of security, the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace can be secured only by containing the military build-up activities of all foreign powers. These powers must be debarred from making our part of the world and in particular the Indian Ocean a battleground for global power politics. We should aim at eliminating the military presence and military bases of all superpowers from the Indian Ocean region.

Further, we should aim at demilitarising Indian Ocean by seeking the removal of all nuclear bases whether of the U.S. or the Soviet Union, or any other nation. We cannot subscribe to the theory that the Gulf region is the backyard of the Soviet Union.

We should also aim at prohibiting nuclear tests in the Indian Ocean region. Our aim should be to ensure that the region will not acquire nuclear weapons or allow their induction by an external power. We should aim at bringing about greater interstate and inter-regional cooperation and solve all controversial issues by peaceful discussion. We should allow the nations of the Indian Ocean to utilise the ocean's wealth in a cooperative manner so as to remove the limits to economic growth caused by land-based natural resources.

It is within the framework of these objectives that we can achieve the object of making the Indian Ocean a zone of peace, and not by calling upon only one superpower to dismantle its bases. Further, there is no rationale in the suggestion that the naval forces of the two superpowers be maintained in reasonable balance at as low a level as possible. Once the presence of the superpower bases is allowed, a competitive build-up cannot be avoided, the dangerous escalation by both superpowers would seriously threaten the peace and tranquillity of the region.

KHOMEYNI MESSAGE TO NATION ON WAR ANNIVERSARY

LD221422 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Sep 82

[Message to the nation by Avatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni on the second anniversary of the war with Iraq -- read by Ahmad Khomeyni at a mass rally at Tehran's Azadi Square on 22 September -- recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Two years have elapsed since the onslaught launched by the world-devouring America through its hirelings, the 'Aflaqi Saddam, against the Iranian Islamic state and, indeed, against Islam. Thanks to the most exalted God, at every stage in this uncalled-for and imposed war the might of Islam and that of the Islamic Republic and of the armed and security forces, as well as the steadfastness of the crusading nation has become more manifest and enhanced, while the ignominy of the world devourers and those associated with or attached to them becomes more evident and greater and the hands of the subversive and [word indistinct] hypocrites has become increasingly exposed.

Praise be to the most exalted God and thanks for the Almighty's special blessings and for the attention granted by his holiness the remnant of God [the hidden imam of the Shi'ites], may all our lives be sacrificed at his feet; the Iranian state and nation has this year had conspicuous achievements compared with previous years.

In previous years the duped army of Saddam continued its crimes in our dear country. Saddam at-Tikriti and his masters had hoped that they would be able to continue with their crimes and acts of sabotage inside the country. They were harboring dreams of becoming generals of Al-Qadisiyah [650 A.D. battle between Muslims and Iranians]. They were nursing in their empty heads the dreams of separating Iran from its oil-rich regions.

However, this most blessed year has proved to us and to you that their ivory towers have collapsed and that the brave and faithful Iranian Armed Forces have driven them out of our country with the utmost ignominy. Now, like highwaymen, they have built themselves hideouts in the Iranian heights and have crept inside them, having lost their ability to confront the Iranian forces. From inside Iraq they are now pounding Arab-inhabited areas with their long-range artillery and rockets, martyring the resistant people of the border towns. The ambitious Saddam of Al-Qadisiyah has degenerated into taking his begging bowl to this or that government, comforting himself with a bunch of lies and proving himself with artificial face-saving solace. He imagines he is duping his army and he is trying to engage in an act of revenge against the innocent Iraqi people and the commanders of his army for his own ignominous defeat. Above all, he has declared Khark Island a war zone and his defeated supporters are whipping up the lie in the hope that this trick might persuade oil tankers not to come to Khark Island and thus force Iran to seek a peace. This evil trick has also been nipped in the bud and neutralized.

The reason for this is that Iranian combatants are courageously defending Iranian territory and ports and that the government, by providing insurance for oil tankers, has neutralized this plot. Today, the might of the Iranian Armed Forces, including the army, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the Mobilization of the corps, the security forces and the popular tribal forces, is such that they can easily smash Iraqi cities. However, adherence to the commands of dear Islam has prevented the Iranian Armed Forces from violating the sanctity of residential cities. Had, God forbid, our commanders and armed forces been like Saddam and the forces under him -- disregarding Islam and its commandments and being devoid of human values -- Iraqi cities, the size of Khuzestan and others, would have been razed to the ground.

During the past year, plotters in the press and media associated with America and Zionism have, with the utmost impudence, accused Iran of importing arms from Israel, of being a supporter of criminal Israel. It has now become clear and manifest at the Fes conference that Israel's supporters are the criminal Saddam and the majority of the governments in the region -- support for a criminal who, with the utmost temerity and despite all its crimes and services rendered by the region's [words indistinct].

Israel has made a laughing stock of them and has humiliated them, which brings shame to any man except the aforementioned ones. It is a humiliation not for the leaders of these countries but because of their association with Islam and because, unfortunately, the affairs of Muslims are in their hands. [sentence as heard]

The result of these services to that murderer was the mass slaughter of the innocent people of Beirut, a crime whose depth we do not know. The extent of the crime was such that, according to reports by news agencies, it evoked the anger of the people of the world. It even forced, as it were, international criminals like Reagan and Husni Mubarak to condemn it. The extent of the crime was such that even pro-Israeli news agencies and papers condemned it and called it the biggest crime since World War II. Its gravity was such that even the foremost criminals of the world, like Israel, the Phalangists and their other collaborators, are blaming it on each other. The greatest tragedy for the Muslims is that not a word is heard from the heads of state in the region. More tragic and shameful than that is the unconditional support of some of the rulers in the region. Even, so the crime committed by Israel and its great father, America, is unspeakable.

Thanks to the God of the world, we are still receiving divine assistance from Islam and the Islamic Republic. And God redirected the deception of those who accused Iran of supporting Israel, and disgraced them in front of the nations. The 'Aflaqi Saddam, who kept finding excuses for confronting Israel, who intended to save himself from the combative defenders of Iran with these excuses, was very active in supporting and recognizing Israel and stressing its vindictiveness and valor [as heard]. And they plotted and God plotted; verily, God is the best plotter.

Now that the glorification of the week of the imposed war has started -- and thank God Almighty the brave Iranian Armed Forces are proudly going through the final stages of victory for Islam and the great nation -- it is necessary for the honorable nation of Iran in general, and government officials, announcers, writers, poets and artists in particular, to thank these self-sacrificing classes and express, in their words, thoughts and actions, the various stages of victory of these heroes, and recount these results and achievements during the ceremonies of the war week, and raise the morale of these great combatants as much as possible.

It is necessary for the committed and (?active) nation to show its presence on the scene of the war this week and punch those liars hard in the mouth. Today, the superpowers accuse our present-on-the-scene nation of turning its back on the Islamic Republic and of tiring of this war, which is truly in defense of Islam. They do not know the Iranian nation. Therefore, they are forced to tell lies. By making various accusations against the armed forces and the nation of Iran they intend to repeat their crimes in Iran at any cost. But the brave and resisting nation of Iran has stood against them and will never permit this. They intend to oppose the Islamic Republic, but such opposition will make our dear people more adamant and unite them for a longer struggle to defend Iran, dear Islam, their independence and honor.

Therefore, the merchants, dear students, the self-sacrificing combatants and other honorable classes -- should, during this war week and in gratitude for the victory of Islam, demonstrate their support for the Islamic Republic and the armed forces who engage in self-sacrifice on the path toward their goal, which is Islam and Iran; keep alive the memory of those self-sacrificing martyrs to whom the Islamic Republic and the victories owe a debt of gratitude; be grateful and honor the dear disabled, those who suffered losses for the establishment of the rule of God; and sympathize with and help the families of the martyrs.

Words are not enough in praise of those young and old ones who sacrificed their lives and health to keep Islam alive and the country eternal and free of blood-sucking enemies. Words cannot console those brave fathers and mothers who brought up such children and gave them to Islam, and those brothers and sisters who were near them.

They will be immersed in God's endless blessings alongside the great saints, and will enjoy felicity in this world and in the world to come. May God bless them.

Endless greetings to the martyrs on the path of righteousness and those disabled and made homeless in the defense of Islam and Islamic Iran, and to the families of the martyrs and the disabled. God's greetings and those of the saints and prophets to the remnant of God, may our lives be sacrificed at his feet.

[Signed] Ruhollah Musavi-Khomeyni

DEFENSE MINISTRY ISSUES STATEMENT ON ANNIVERSARY

LD222328 Tehran IRNA in English 1941 GMT 22 Sep 82

[Text] Tehran, Sep. 22, IRNA -- A period of two years has passed since the failure of the superpowers entirely, in their efforts to subjugate the Iranian Muslim nation by means of the Iraqi imposed war upon the Islamic Republic of Iran, said the Iranian Defence Ministry in a statement issued here today.

In this statement, which was issued on the occasion of the second anniversary of the Iraqi imposed war, the Defence Ministry added that the world oppressors imposed the war through their most savage puppet, Saddam Husayn and the Iraqi Ba'thist regime, against the Islamic Republic two years ago.

Saddam's regime, said the statement, began the war by sudden air raids against Iranian cities and residential areas, occupying hundreds of kms of the Iranian territory and martyring or capturing defenceless civilians.

But, added the statement, the Muslim nation of Iran bravely confronted this imposed war and other plots of global imperialism.

KHAMENE'I LAUDS PROGRESS OF MILITARY, GUARDS

GF221751 Tehran IRNA in English 1710 GMT 22 Sep 82

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 22, ITNA -- The Islamic Republic will [not] relinquish its just demands against the Iraqi regime until this aggressor regime is punished.

In an interview with the Persian daily ETTELA'AT today, President Khamene'i added that what the Islamic Republic is demanding today is precisely what it demanded in the beginning of the Iraqi imposed war.

"On the first day of the Iraqi imposed war we said that we would defeat Iraq, but many did not believe this," he said.

Speaking on the anniversary of the Iraqi aggression into Iranian territory (Sept 22, 1980). the paper printed the views of the president on the history and aftermath of this aggression.

"Although the aggression began on Sept. 22, 1980, it must be said that the war of the Iraqi regime against Iran started after the victory of the revolution," Khamene'i said. He added that since last March 1979 up to Sept. 22, 1980, Iranians had been victims of Iraqi aggression some 289 times.

Concerning the reasons for this aggression, the president said that in general Saddam's motivation in respect to his war was a mixture of his personal lust and ambition for power and his knowledge of the counterrevolutionary intentions of other countries in the region which were opposed to the Islamic revolution.

Khamene'i said Saddam and his collaborators believed that Iran would be taken by surprise since it was preoccupied with its own internal political matters.

The president blamed ousted President Bani-Sadr and "some of the military leaders of that time" for their heeedless reaction to the threatening signs of an Iraqi aggression. He said that the Islamic revolutionary guards [words indistinct] Khamene'i added, he would deny such a threat.

The head of the Supreme Defence Council said that at the start of the war the country was not in a position to counter the Iraqi forces. "The government officials neither knew the militarymen and their fighting abilities, nor had they knowledge of logistics and furthermore they did not even know how a war was fought," he said. "Everyone was in a state [words indistinct] even have precise information on exactly who were the military commanders."

The president added that the military commanders after the victory of the revolution did not even have correct data on the numbers of weapons or personnel.

He furthermore said that until 10 or 11 months after the beginning of the war they did not even possess knowledge about the existence of some weapons.

The Islamic revolutionary guards, Khamene'i said, had not been properly organized at that time either.

He said that he and other officials were exasperated when they tried to transfer one 106 mm gun for the IRGC [Islamic Revolution Guards Corps] during Bani-Sadr's commandership of the army. But he added that one of the reasons for the chain of victories at the battlefields was that the Islamic revolutionary guards were not seriously recognised as a force." In my view a key element leading to victory in the past year was that the commanders of the army understood the great power of the (Islamic revolutionary) guards and that greater force which was the people and the popular Mobilisation which is in the hands of the guards...the guards today are not comparable to the guards of two years ago. Today the guards are a skillful and very competent military force," he said.

On the blessings of the Iraqi imposed war, President Khamene'i said that now the Islamic Republic was serious about its enemies, adding "this is a damaging and dangerous thing that a government and a revolution does not take the existence of its enemies seriously."

One other blessing, he said, was that the army had become experienced, something it was not before the war, making the army "unequalled in the Middle East with its two years of war experience." Khamene'i also said that the Iranian military personnel had learned much about their equipment, which they had little choice but service it themselves, "which in the past we did not have the courage to do so, and never learned."

Other blessings he said were the training and experience of the Islamic revolutionary guards and the people's awareness of that difficulties of war, although he added, "the truth is that during the period of war we did not allow the time to pass too harshly on the people."

AFP REPORTS ON 22 SEP PARADE IN TEHRAN

NC221329 Paris AFP in English 1321 GMT 22 Sep 82

[Text] Tehran, Sep 21 (AFP) -- Several thousand "combatants of Islam" marched through the streets of Tehran today in a parade marking the second anniversary of the start of the Iran-Iraq war.

As Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi looked on, Ahmad Khomeyni, the son of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, read a message from the revolutionary guide thanking "all the forces who have participated in this war, as we now reach its final stage."

Despite Iraq's "ruses to prevent maritime traffic" in the zone around the strategic Iranian oil terminal on Khark Island, the message said, "the Iranian fighters are courageously defending Khark and the Iranian ports, and the government, by proposing to insure the ships, has cancelled this attempt."

The parade went off as scheduled despite a 15-minute air raid alert earlier today. According to the newspaper KEYHAN, the alert was set off by an Iraqi MiG-25 which flew over the capital at an altitude of 2,100 meters (6,900 feet) and was pursued by Iranian fighters.

There was little military materiel on view at the parade, with just nine trucks supplied by West Germany and the socialist countries winding through the streets.

A group of 300 Iraqi prisoners, carrying portraits of Ayatollah Khomeyni, participated in the march flanked by Iranian Army troops, revolutionary guards and recruits from "movement of the disinherited."

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE NO 1,055

LD221848 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Sep 82

[Communique No 1,055 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. With wishes for the final victory of the combatants of Islam on the fronts of the war between truth and falsehood, on the eve of the second anniversary of the imposed war, the situation at the fronts and the results of the efforts and self-sacrifices of the combatants of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran are brought to the attention of the Muslim nation and the beloved and thankful Iranian compatriots:

In exchange of fire on the western fronts of the country, the heavy-artillery fire of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran pounded the positions and units of the Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries in the Tutman and Hargineh areas, destroying a large number of their individual and group positions and also destroying 2 130-mm guns, 2 trucks and 1 construction vehicle of the Saddamist forces and killing about 30 of the forces of blasphemy.

On one of the Gilan-e Gharb border fronts, the combatants of the ground forces set fire to a truck carrying enemy personnel, killing at least 10 of the Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries and wounding some others and also inflicting heavy damage on 2 other vehicles of the Iraqi forces.

In the past 24 hours fighting continued on all the southern fronts in the form of exchanges of artillery and heavy-weapon fire. The victorious combatants of Islam, consolidating their defensive positions, returned the enemy fire and inflicted losses and casualties on the Saddamist forces.

In the exchanges of fire on the Abadan and Khorramshahr fronts, the heroes of the gendarmerie, opening fire on the positions and units of the enemy on the other side of the Arvand Rud, silenced the Saddamist mercenaries' fire and stopped the movement of Saddam's force of blasphemy, destroying several of their slit trenches and foxholes and killing a number of the enemy.

In the past 24 hours, the residential areas and installations of Abadan continued to come under the long-range artillery fire of Saddam's criminal mercenaries, which resulted in the destruction of several houses, some damage to the installations and the injury of one person.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

IRAQI MIG-25 ATTEMPTS ATTACK ON TEHRAN

LD221122 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Sep 82

[Text] According to IRNA, at 0858 today, an extremely advanced Iraqi MiG-25, flying at three times the speech of sound [as heard], tried to bombard the residential areas of Tehran, but was confronted with prompt reaction by the fast-flyers of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and before appearing in the skies of Tehran it was forced to flee. Only when escaping did it break the sound barrier.

NVOI: U.S. PREVENTING END TO IRAN-IRAQ

TA230703 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT 22 Sep 82

[Unattributed commentary: "Two Years Have Passed Since World-Devouring America's Assault on Iran"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: In his message on the occasion of the anniversary of the start of the imposed war and the beginning of war week, Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and commander in chief of the army, said the following: At every stage in this uncalled-for and imposed war, the might of Islam and that of the Islamic Republic and of the armed and security forces, as well as the steadfastness of the committed nation, has become more manifest and enhanced, while the ignominy of the world devourers and those associated with or attached to them becomes more evident and greater, and the hands of the saboteurs, the hypocrites and the deviants have become increasingly exposed. This is a completely correct and just statement.

Two years have passed since the imposition of the destructive war on our liberated homeland by the supercriminal of the era, the great Satan. It has been 2 full years now since world-devouring America, using the hands of Iraq and its other puppets in the region, has been shedding the blood of the peace-loving people of Iran and Iraq. The selfless Iranian families have been sacrificing their best sons for 2 years now in defense of their country, prestige and honor. For 2 years the great Satan has been taking revenge on the epic-making Iranian nation by bombing production centers, towns and villages and by razing to the ground the homes of innocent and independence-seeking people.

According to the figures presented by our homeland's president about 6 months ago, as a result of the imposed war Iran has suffered $150 billion in damages. The damage of the Iraqi nation also from this destructive war is definitely not less than $100 billion. Thus, as we are observing, the criminal America has delivered an extremely heavy blow from the economic, military and human standpoints to the two peace-seeking nations of the region.

As the imam of the nation has said: Actually it has been 2 years now since the sworn enemy of the independence and freedom of nations, the criminal America, began openly fighting against the Islamic Republic of Iran with the hope of possibly retrieving emancipated Iran; a hope which without the slightest doubt it will carry to the grave.

Our homeland, Iran, not only because of its immense natural wealth, but because of its geographic -- that is, strategic -- position, is the [word indistinct] of the so-called vital interests of the great Satan. Therefore, this supercriminal does not spare one moment in his efforts to crush the Islamic Government of Iran.

In view of the consistent defeat of the plots of the criminal America within the country, the hope of the great Satan is in particular more than ever pinned on the continuation of the imposed war of attrition. In this respect the calculation of the great Satan is very clear and obvious.

By continuously arming Iraq, by increasing large-scale assistance to this country through its puppets and associates in the region, and by sending so-called military volunteers from Arab countries to Iraq -- who now come from eight countries -- world-devouring America is trying by all means to prevent Iraq's military defeat and to prolong the imposed war as a means for wearing out the Islamic government.

Frightening the region's countries with the imaginary danger of the Islamic revolution in order to prepare the ground for the establishment of a military alliance or pact comprising the region's reactionary countries under the supervision of the Pentagon, and the gradual and creeping military occupation of the region under the pretext of assistance to remove the so-called danger of the Islamic revolution from the region, are among the other aims of the great Satan in continuing the imposed war and transforming it into a long war of attrition.

Thus, a very dangerous and large-scale plot is in the process of being hatched in front of us. One must confront this reality with a complete sense of historical responsibility. Some time ago we brought to the attention of our dear compatriots some portions of the report by Georgetown University's International Center for Strategic Studies about the Iran-Iraq war which is precisely the view of the CIA and the Reagan administration. When our sworn enemies declare openly that the Iran-Iraq war is in the interest of Saudi Arabia, Israel and the United States, that this war has caused further rapprochement between Iraq and the reactionary regimes of the Gulf and that it prepares the ground for the establishment of the Jordan-Iraq-Saudi Arabia axis; when we read in this report that the Iran-Iraq war and its continuation has preserved and will preserve further Israel's security interests, that it will cause the expansion of Iraq-U.S. relations, and that because of the non-shipment of arms by Moscow to Iraq Washington's relations with Baghdad will become warmer, can the conclusion drawn by the sincere followers of the imam's popular and anti-imperialist line be other than an immediate end to the imposed long war of attrition -- whose daily prolongation is only to the benefit of the great Satan, Israel and the region's reaction and in every respect to the detriment of the Iranian and Iraqi nations and other nations of the region -- is a vital necessity that cannot be delayed?

The member countries of the Arab steadfastness front and the progressive forces of the Arab countries and the world as well all demand the termination of a war which while dealing blows to the gains of the Iranian revolution assists in maintaining the interests of America and Israel, and are ready to exert their efforts toward ending this long war of attrition by complying with the main conditions of the Islamic government for terminating the war. One must end this long war of attrition as soon as possible by considering all aspects of the problem and all the current realities of the region and the world.

JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES DISCUSS PURGE OF JUDGES

LD221824 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Sep 82

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, the Supreme Judicial Council this morning held a joint session with canonists of the Council of Guardians and discussed and exchanged views on judicial issues. In a special session, the Supreme Judicial Council also discussed and studied the purging of judges.

According to the report, a session of the Supreme Judcial Council was also held this afternoon, which interviewed clergymen who have passed their examinations and who were presented by the Qom religious seminary.